

Harris County, Texas Additional Comments on
FCC Public Notice Seeking Comment on
The Transition Process for 700 MHz Public Safety Waiver Recipients
(DA 12-555, released April 6, 2012)
PS Docket No. 12-94
Submission Date: July 13, 2012

The Texas Department of Public Safety, as the waiver holder for the State of Texas's early deployment of a 700 MHz Public Safety Broadband Network, has provided strong leadership in representing the interest of local jurisdictions' and to insure any network implementations now and in the future meet the prescribed interoperability requirements to interface with the national public safety broadband network. The governance and application processes being worked on by the state will be a valuable resource for FirstNet and all other jurisdictions' facing similar challenges in representing the varied interest of their public safety constituents.

Phase I and II of the Harris County BIGNet Broadband Network with coverage for the City of Baytown, the Port of Houston, the Houston Ship Channel Security District and other portions of Harris County are substantially complete and ready to provide service to the more than 1600 LTE Public safety subscribers awaiting deployment by various jurisdictions' and agencies within Harris County.

Harris County using FEMA port grant and local matching funds implemented this network to provide:

- Critical communications capability for Public Safety specifically in Harris County and the surrounding region to protect public safety and the critical infrastructure we are responsible for. During major events the commercial wireless network does not provide the communications necessary to support Public Safety resulting in major communications disruptions. This is well documented in numerous cases.
- Provide an LTE core platform to any State of Texas jurisdiction or third party vendors to demonstrate interoperable communications.
- Regional lower core in accordance with current State of Texas architecture guidelines.
- Opportunity for lessons learned to be shared by local, State and Federal jurisdictions.
- Valuable, no risk support to FirstNet by demonstrating the operability of a network over distance is workable.
- A broadband network to replace existing old and failing data networks.
- Better protection of our critical infrastructure and economy by enhanced data sharing capabilities over the broadband network. We strongly believe this helps protect our national economy when you look at the amount of goods and petrochemical that come from our region.

Harris County will continue to work with regional partners, State, Federal agencies and multiple vendors to ensure compliance and adaptation of the BIGNet network to any and all future FirstNet design requirements.